

REMARKS

Claims 1-87 are pending in this application, with claims 1-32 and 81-87 withdrawn from consideration. Attached hereto is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with their current status listed parenthetically. By this Response, claims 41-45 and 49-53 have been amended, and are presented with markings indicating their current amendments. Claims 1-40, 46-48 and 54-87 have been cancelled, without prejudice to further prosecution.

Allowable claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 41-45 and 49-53 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant amends claim 41 to include the elements of claim 40 (the base claim) and also amends claim 49 to include the elements of claim 48 (the base claim). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 41-45 and 49-53 are now in condition for allowance.

Drawing changes

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to FIGS. 2, 5B and 15, and requests minor amendments for consistency with the specification. In response, Applicant has amended FIGS. 2, 5B and 15 as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve these drawing amendments to facilitate the allowance of this application.

Claim objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 33, 40, 48 and 66. As claims 33 and 66 have been cancelled without prejudice, these objections are moot. Claims 41 and 49, that

now include the elements of claims 40 and 48, respectively, have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 59 and 46 as being indefinite. As claims 59 and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice to later prosecution, these rejections are now moot.

The Examiner also rejects claims 33-80 for containing the word "configured" as it "creates a lacking of positive meanings [*sic*] in these claims." As claims 33-40, 46-48 and 54-80 have been cancelled without prejudice to later prosecution, the rejection to these claims is now moot.

Regarding claims 41-45 and 49-53, the word "configured" has been changed to "structured." That is, each element is "structured" to perform as described in each claim. Therefore, it is a structural limitation and should be accorded the same weight as the other elements in the claims.

The above-described claim amendments have been drafted in response to the indefiniteness rejection, to impart precision into the claims by more particularly pointing out the invention. The claim amendments have not been drafted to overcome any prior art.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 33-40, 47-48, 50, 54 and 61-63 stand rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. patent 6,529,488 ("Urs") in view of U.S. patent 6,256,508 ("Nakagawa"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As claims 33-40, 47-48, 54 and 61-63 have been cancelled without prejudice to later prosecution, the rejection of these claims are now moot.

Regarding claim 50, Applicant submits the inclusion of this claim in the rejection is a typographical error, as the Office Action Summary does not list claim 50 as a rejected claim, but instead lists claim 50 as an objected claim. See above.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdrawal this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this Response has addressed all items in the Office Action and now places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 41-45 and 49-53 at an early date is solicited. The \$750 fee for the Petition to Revive, along with the requisite documents are included with this Response. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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